

REMARKS

Claims 9-20, all the claims pending in the application, stand rejected. Applicant has amended claims 9 and 18 in order to expressly provide structure that supports a limitation that the ID information stored in a first storage is rewritable. Claim 15 also has been amended to provide greater clarity. Claim 17 has been amended to depend from claim 9. Claim 16 has been cancelled.

In the claimed invention, the ID information to be rewritten is stored in the first storage provided in the key. The Examiner asserts that the printer 18 of Gokcebay performs this recitation. The Applicant would like to point out that the printer 18 never rewrite the ID information in the storage provided with the key. Further, the Applicant would like to point out that the feature cited in claims 17 and 19 is not taught or suggested in Col. 11, lines 24-28 of Gokcebay as the Examiner asserts.

Information Disclosure Statement

Although Applicants believe the Examiner is aware of the parent application, Applicants are also submitting concurrently an IDS that identifies the prior art cited in parent application 10/286,770.

Priority Documents

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicants claim to priority or the receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents in the parent case. Applicants respectfully request such acknowledgment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

Claims 9-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gokcebay (5,337,043) in view of Hurskainen et al (6,155,089). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

First, with regard to claim 16, the rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of the claim. Second, the amendments to claim 9 clearly define over the prior art, rendering the remaining claims patentable, as detailed subsequently.

Claims 9-17

The invention defined by claims 9-17 is directed to a locking security system. The system has the locking device, as set forth in claim 1 of the parent application, in combination with network components, including a network, a manager and a terminal coupled to the locking device at a door. The locking device has a key with a first storage that stores identification information, a lock section actuated by the key, a receiver for receiving information from the key, a storage of registration information, a checker for comparing the stored and received information, and a limiter to restrict unlocking actuation. Only when a compatible key has been inserted into a keyseat will a mechanical unlocking be permitted, specifically, by withdrawing an axial pin from a hole. The claimed invention has been further defined by specifying in claim 9 that the ID information to be rewritten is stored in the first storage provided in the key.

The dependent claims specify that the checker can be located in the terminal (claim 10), on the network (claim 11) or in the manager (claim 12). First and second communicators for communicating information are specified in claim 13, particularly a radio wave communicator as in claim 14. Claim 15 specifies the use of a third storage in the manager, which stores unlocked information, and claim 17 specifies when the writer updates information.

Gokcebay

Gokcebay teaches a security network where a central processing unit 15 may be programmed by a programming unit 17 and used to receive with information related to the identity of an individual user for storage in a memory and subsequent access for verification of a user's identity. As now amended, the invention defined by claim 9 specifies that the ID information to be rewritten is stored in the first storage provided in the key. The Examiner asserts that the printer 18 of Gokcebay performs this recitation. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the printer 18 does not rewrite the ID information in the storage provided with the key. Further, the Applicants would like to point out that the feature cited in claims 17

and 19 is not taught or suggested in col. 11, lines 24-28 of Gokcebay, contrary to the assertion of the Examiner.

In the absence of express limitations of the rejected claims, the invention cannot be anticipated nor rendered obvious on the basis of Gokcebay alone. Hurskainen et al does not remedy this deficiency.

Hurskainen et al

The locking device in Hurskainen et al comprises a lock section that is mechanically actuated by a key as well as a receiver which obtains identification information transmitted from the key. There is no teaching or suggestion in Hurskainen of any updated ID operation, and in particular no mention of a new code being used. Moreover, there is no teaching of rewriting a code in a first storage.

Finally, with respect to claim 15, Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertion that the feature of using a third storage to store unlocked information is taught in Gokcebay, as the group processor A, B or C storing ID codes does not suggest a third storage for unlocked information.

Claims 18-20

Claim 18 is directed to a method of locking a door, and has been amended to specify the existence of first in the key and second storage in the locking device, both for storing ID information. The claim specifically provides that the ID information in the first storage is rewritable. Clearly, this claim cannot be anticipated by Gokcebay for the reasons already given with respect to claim 9. Claims 19 and 20 parallel the limitations in claims 15 and 17. In particular, claim 19 requires updating identification when a releasing step is performed and claim 20 requires storing unlocked information when the releasing step is performed. Thus, all of claims 18-20 are patentable.

Claim 14 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gokcebay (5,337,043) in view of Hurskainen et al (6,155,089) and Lemelson (4,200,227). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.111
10/780,672

Given the teachings in the prior art of radio wave communication between a key and a receiver, patentability would be based on limitations in a parent claim. The patentability of the parent claim already has been demonstrated.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

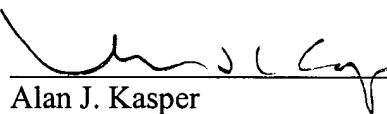
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